

Media consolidation is a threat to our liberty. An example is the decision of Sinclair Broadcasting to require their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election.

The public airwaves are available to Sinclair free of charge. In exchange, it is obligated by law to serve the public interest. Sinclair illustrates the result when large companies control the airwaves, it is their bottom line and not the needs for our democracy that prevail. News is not entertainment, and not a mouthpiece for a point of view or political leaning. Local communities are not served by a piece produced at "News Central" far away. We need to see real people from our own communities and we need more substantive news about issues that matter.

We need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. Sinclair's actions demonstrate why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.